MOON KNIGHT™

MARVEL

LEMIRE / SMALLWOOD / BELLAIRE

#1

"DEATH AND BIRTH" STARTS

NOW

#10

MERCENARY MARC SPECTOR DIED IN EGYPT UNDER A STATUE OF THE MOON GOD KHONSHU. IN THE SHADOW OF THE ANCIENT DEITY, MARC RETURNED TO LIFE AND TOOK ON KHONSHU'S ASPECT TO FIGHT CRIME FOR HIS OWN REDEMPTION. IN TIME, THE MANY DIFFERENT IDENTITIES HE HAD CAREFULLY MAINTAINED BEGAN TO SLIP OUT OF HIS CONTROL... AND SO DID HIS GRIP ON REALITY ITSELF.

DEATH AND BIRTH: PART 1 OF 5

WHEN KHONSHU ATTEMPTED TO INVADE OUR REALITY, FILLING NEW YORK CITY WITH SAND AND PYRAMIDS, MARC REJECTED THE DEADLY OVERTURES OF THE MOON GOD, DESTROYING HIMSELF TO SAVE US ALL. MARC SLIPPED BETWEEN THE LIVES OF HIS DIFFERENT IDENTITIES, FINALLY CULMINATING IN A CONFRONTATION IN NEW EGYPT BETWEEN MARC AND THE MEN HIS MIND HAD CREATED. IN ORDER TO BE WHOLE AGAIN, MARC WAS FORCED TO DEAL WITH THE DISPARATE ELEMENTS OF HIMSELF--AND ONCE HE DID, THE ULTIMATE TASK BECAME CLEAR: KILL KHONSHU.

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

SOME YEARS AGO.

HELLO.

HUH? OH, HI.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

JUST DRAWING.

CAN I DRAW, TOO?

UM, SURE.

MY NAME IS MARC SPECTOR. I LIVE THERE, IN THAT APARTMENT BUILDING.

I KNOW.

YOU DO?

YEAH, I'VE SEEN YOU AROUND. I LIVE THERE, TOO.

OH. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

MY NAME IS STEVEN. STEVEN GRANT.

MY DAD IS THE RABBI AT THE SYNAGOGUE ON PARK STREET. WHAT DOES YOURS DO?

MY DAD ISN'T AROUND MUCH.

OH.

IT DOESN'T MATTER. I DON'T NEED HIM. WHEN I GET OLDER I'M GOING TO BE RICH.

AND FAMOUS.

REALLY? HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT?

I'M GOING TO MAKE MOVIES.

COOL.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?

I DON'T KNOW. I KEEP CHANGING MY MIND.

NASA

ARE YOU SURE YOUR PARENTS WON'T MIND IF I COME OVER, MARC?

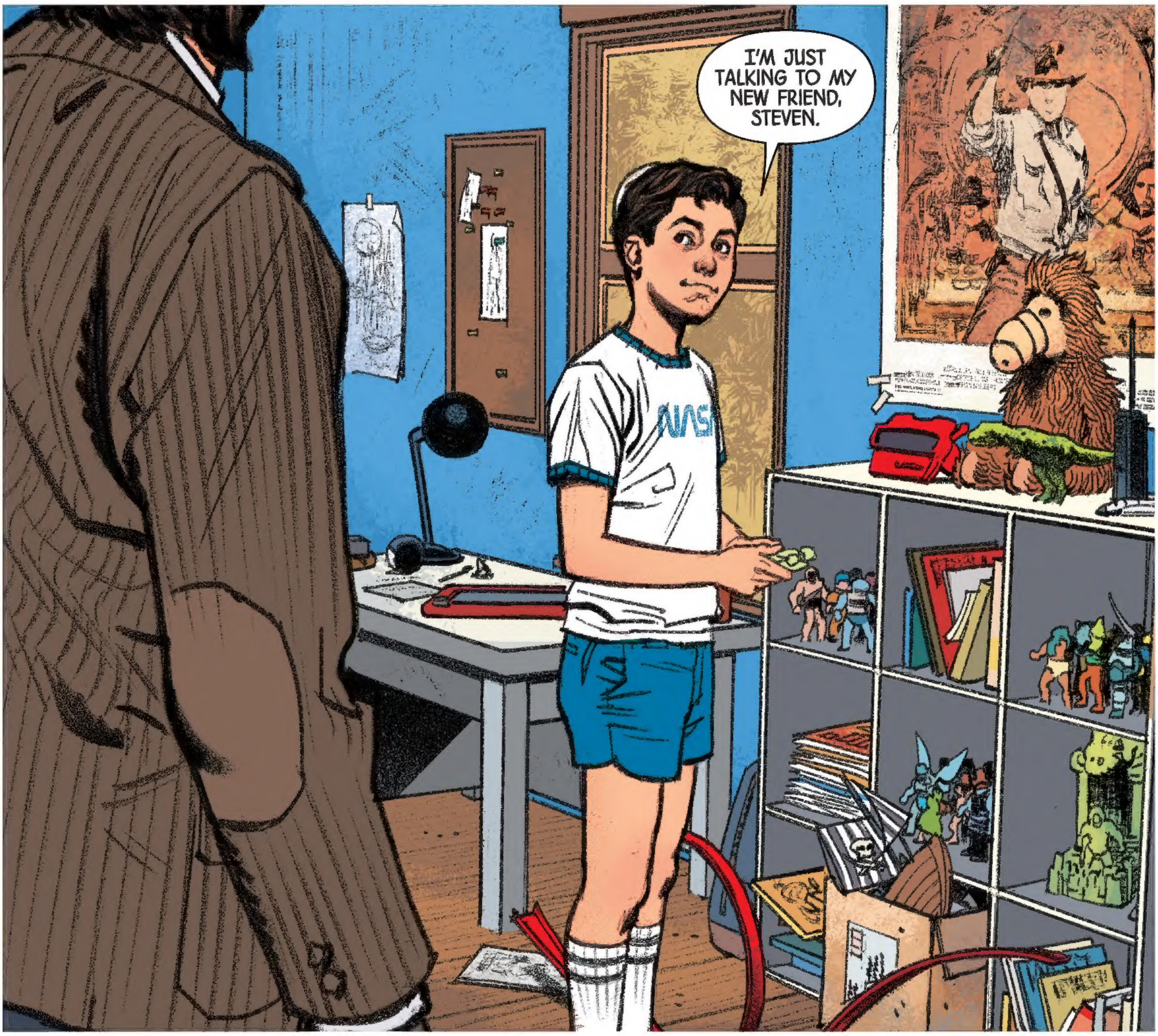
NAH. THEY'RE PRETTY COOL MOST OF THE TIME.

room belongs to:

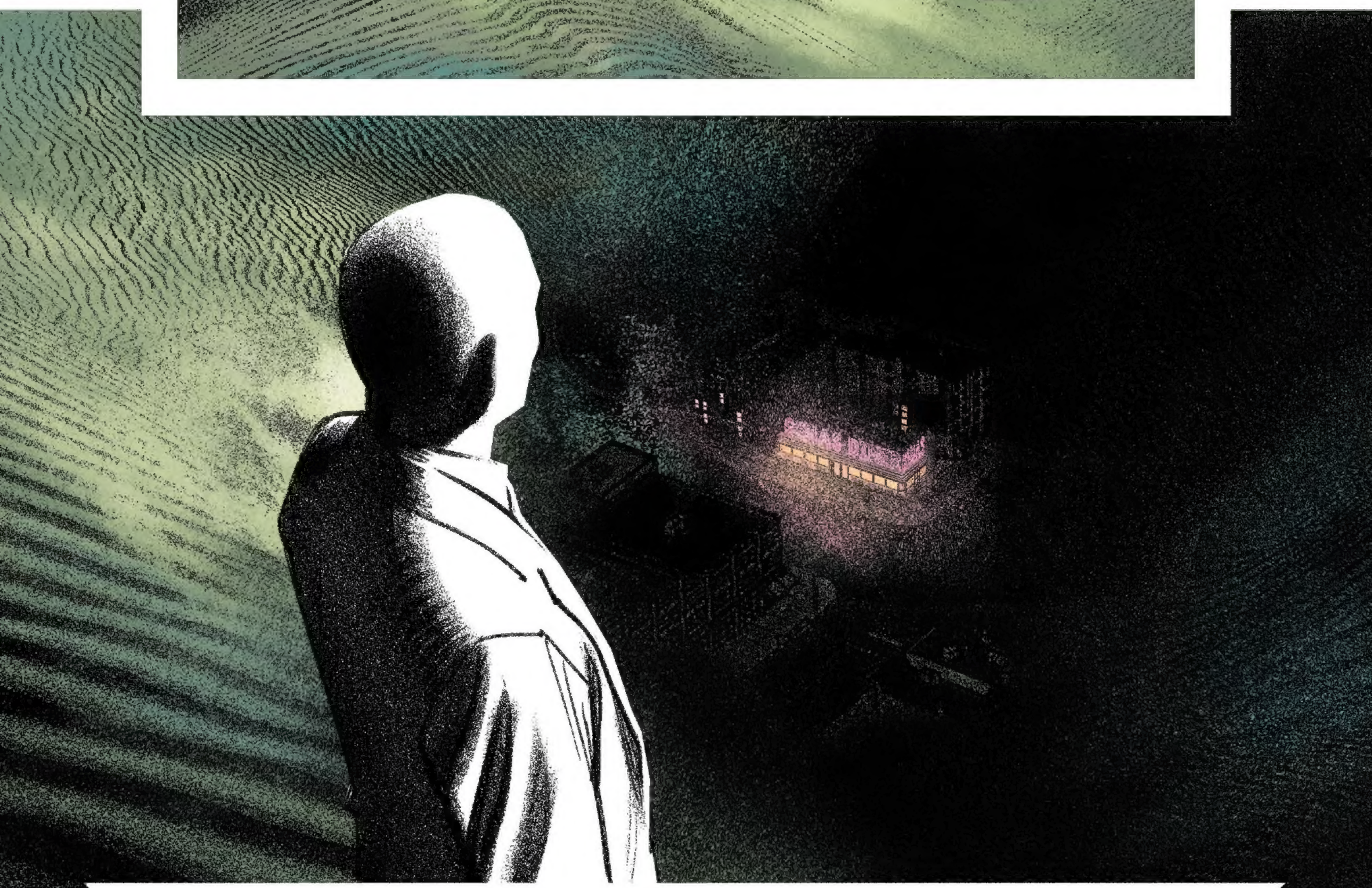
Marc S.

COOL ROOM.
THANKS.
A-TEAM
NASA
OH, MAN! YOU HAVE *BLAST-OFF?*
YEAH!
I ALWAYS WANTED HIM! HE'S SO HARD TO FIND!
YOU CAN BORROW HIM IF YOU WANT.
REALLY?!
SURE.
MARC?

HEY, DAD.
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?


I'M JUST TALKING TO MY NEW FRIEND, STEVEN.
NASA

ELSEWHERE.
NOW.



RING

GENA?

MR. KNIGHT!

I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN. HECK, I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE ANYONE AGAIN.

HAVE YOU BEEN HERE ALONE THE WHOLE TIME? SINCE I LEFT?

YES. BEEN WAITING FOR MY BOYS TO ARRIVE, BUT I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THEM.

I HAVEN'T SEEN *ANYONE*, IN FACT. BEEN SO QUIET AROUND HERE. AND THIS DARN STORM'S NOT HELPING NONE.

I KNOW WHAT YOU NEED, MR. KNIGHT.

YOU DO?

SURE DO. YOU NEED YOURSELF A CUP OF GOOD HOT COFFEE...

"...AND PANCAKES!"

GENA... THESE FLAPJACKS ARE TO DIE FOR.

I KNEW YOU LOOKED HUNGRY. SO, HOW DID YOU MAKE OUT? WHERE DID MARLENE GET OFF TO?

I--I LOST MARLENE. I DON'T KNOW WHERE OR HOW, IT WAS ALL SO CONFUSING. THEN I SUDDENLY FOUND MYSELF BACK HERE.

I THINK MY QUEST ISN'T OVER YET. I THINK I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO. I NEED TO GO ***BACK TO THE HOSPITAL.***

NOW WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU EVER WANT TO GO BACK TO THAT AWFUL PLACE, MARC?

IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN. BUT I THINK ALL OF THIS MIGHT BE IN MY HEAD. OR AT LEAST SOME OF IT IS.

YOU'RE REAL. OR AT LEAST YOU'RE MY MEMORY OF YOU. AND THAT'S REAL. IT'S REALLY HARD TO EXPLAIN. I DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF.

YOU TELLING ME I'M IN YOUR HEAD? 'CAUSE I SURE FEEL REAL, SWEETIE.

ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'VE BEEN SICK FOR A VERY LONG TIME, AND I NEED TO FIND A WAY TO ***GET BETTER.***

WILL YOU COME WITH ME, GENA? I LOST MARLENE, FRENCHIE IS DEAD, BUT I STILL HAVE YOU.

I WISH I COULD HELP YOU, HONEY. I REALLY DO, BUT THIS IS YOUR PATH TO WALK. BESIDES, I JUST KNOW MY BABY BOYS ARE GONNA BE HERE SOON.

I UNDERSTAND. AND I DON'T THINK I'LL BE TOTALLY ALONE ANYWAY.

NO?

CRAWLEY IS STILL DOWN THERE WITH ANUBIS. I PROMISED HIM I'D COME BACK FOR HIM. I INTEND TO KEEP THAT PROMISE.

GOODBYE, GENA. I HOPE I SEE YOU AGAIN.

I DO, TOO, HONEY. I'LL KEEP THE COFFEE WARM FOR YOU.

YOU BE CAREFUL OUT THERE.

I'LL TRY. BUT TROUBLE SEEMS TO HAVE A WAY OF FINDING ME, GENA.

THAT IT DOES, MR. KNIGHT. THAT IT DOES.

"WHO AM I TALKING TO NOW? WHO ARE YOU?"

I'M MARC SPECTOR.

AND STEVEN ISN'T HERE?

STEVEN? NO, WHY WOULD HE BE HERE? HIM AND JAKE--

JAKE?

AH, YES. JAKE IS A RELATIVELY NEW DEVELOPMENT. A NEW ONE.

AH, I SEE. AND HOW OFTEN DOES JAKE APPEAR?

SIMILAR TO STEVEN. WE MAY GO WEEKS WHERE HE'S JUST MARC AGAIN. AND THEN, OUT OF NOWHERE IT'S STEVEN OR JAKE FOR A WHILE. AND THEN AS SOON AS THEY COME THEY GO.

THERE'S NO RHYME OR REASON TO IT.

MARC, CAN YOU DO ME A FAVOR? CAN YOU WAIT OUTSIDE A MOMENT WHILE I SPEAK WITH YOUR FATHER?

OKAY.

DISSOCIATIVE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOUNG MAN?

LISTENING TO THE DOCTOR.

WHO IS HE TALKING TO?

MY DAD.

THAT MAN IN THERE IS NOT YOUR TRUE FATHER...

WHAT?

...I AM.

SOON, YOU WILL COME TO ME. AND YOU WILL BE COMPLETE.

MARC?

I--

SON, I NEED YOU TO LISTEN TO ME. I TALKED TO THE DOCTOR AND HE TOLD ME THAT YOU ARE SICK. VERY SICK.

I AM?

YES. BUT IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY. WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU HELP.

THERE IS A PLACE YOU CAN GO WHERE THEY CAN HELP YOU GET BETTER.

A PLACE? BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO ANYWHERE, DAD. I WANT TO STAY AT HOME.

I KNOW, SON. I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO EITHER. BUT YOUR MOTHER AND I CAN'T HELP YOU. NOT ON OUR OWN.

I'M WAITING...

COME

TO ME,

MARC.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

ANUBIS! I AM HERE! I'VE COME FOR MY FRIEND.

MY, MY. I MUST SAY, I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE THE GOOD FORTUNE OF SEEING YOU AGAIN, MR. KNIGHT.

I MADE A PROMISE, CRAWLEY. I TOLD YOU I'D BE BACK FOR YOU. I'VE COME TO RETRIEVE YOUR SOUL FROM ANUBIS.

WE MADE A BARGAIN, TRAVELER. A DEAL IS A DEAL.

YES, WELL, I WANT TO *RENEGOTIATE.*

HIS SOUL IS MINE. THERE IS NOTHING TO DISCUSS.

HE'S GOT YOU THERE, MR. KNIGHT. I'M AFRAID MY GOOSE IS AS GOOD AS COOKED.

THERE *MUST* BE SOMETHING ELSE. SOMETHING ELSE YOU NEED. A TRADE?

...

I DID LOSE SOMETHING IN THE OVERVOID A LONG TIME AGO. SOMETHING VERY DEAR TO ME. BUT I DOUBT EVEN YOU COULD RETRIEVE IT, TRAVELER.

TRY ME.

IF YOU WERE TO FIND IT... I MAY BE PERSUADED TO LET THIS ONE GO. HE DOES TEND TO TALK TOO MUCH FOR MY LIKING.

WHAT IS IT? WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?

YOU WILL KNOW IT WHEN YOU SEE IT. DO YOU ACCEPT THIS NEW DEAL OR NOT?

I CAN'T DO THAT, CRAWLEY. YOU'RE COMING HOME WITH ME, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

MARC!

NOW, NOW. THERE IS NO NEED TO BE RUDE. YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY THE MOST AMUSING HOST AROUND, ANUBIS.

DON'T DO IT, MARC. I'M ALREADY GONE. MOVE ON.

MARC, I NEED YOU TO LISTEN TO ME. I CAN'T HELP YOU IF YOU DON'T WORK WITH ME.

NOT WORKING. INCREASE HIS DOSAGE.

STEVEN? MARC? JAKE? ARE YOU IN THERE?

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE NOT READY TO GO HOME YET. WE HAVE JUST STARTED MAKING PROGRESS.

NOT WORKING. INCREASE THE DOSAGE.

MIGHT NEED TO TRY MORE AGGRESSIVE METHODS.

→GASP!←

WHUMP

UNGH!

HEY! WAIT!

WHAT ARE YOU--?

TO BE CONTINUED...

MOONIE MISSIVES

Write to mheroes@marvel.com and mark your letters "OKAY TO PRINT."

Hey Moonies!

Our intrepid author Mr. Lemire is again neck-deep in mutant madness over in the X-Office, so we're lightening his load by answering your mighty missives! So let's get to it!

In the last MOON KNIGHT series begun by Ellis, Shalvey, and Bellaire, we didn't get a chance for a letters page despite a call-out for submissions. I had made a neat, illustrated, hand-written letter for publication for the occasion, but it never saw print. I'm not bitter over it (you guys at Marvel were busy, I get it), but I couldn't pass up the chance to write in for this series. (This one isn't illustrated this time, but it'll have some goodies nonetheless.)

I've been a fan of Moon Knight since I was first exposed to him as a playable character back when *Marvel Ultimate Alliance* was first released. Playing him in the game piqued my interest in the character and I subsequently bought the first volume of the 2006 series, MOON KNIGHT: THE BOTTOM by Huston, Finch, and co. as soon as I spotted it at my local Barnes & Noble.

Since then, I've avidly followed every Moon Knight story and cameo and backfilled my collection with the classic stuff, including the original series by Moench and Sienkiewicz and the "lost" 60-issue series of MARC SPECTOR: MOON KNIGHT. (Side note: when will we finally see that series and its two sequels, RESURRECTION WAR and HIGH STRANGERS, collected? I had all three of those series plus other cameos from the '90s bound into four custom omnibuses already!)

As for the modern series, I can't quite say which I love more: this one or the previous series. Both have been SUPERB and have explored a corner of Moon Knight's mythos that's only ever been touched upon in previous stories. I was a bit worried with issue #7 when it seemed like we were getting a bit too lost in Marc's madness, but in issue #8 we finally get a glimpse of the light at the end of the tunnel.

I loved the brief return to formula in issue #8 with the Jake Lockley story and his adventure as Moon Knight. I'm starting to miss the good ol' days of Moon Knight masquerading as a hero—not to knock on the mind-trip we've been on since 2014, but I'm aching for some classic heroics to break up the psycho-therapy sessions. (Another side note: LUPINAR! Wow! I don't think anyone expected to see him again! Good play.)

Anyways, keep up the great work and let's keep the ball rolling as long as we can! And I promised goodies, right? Harri W. from Los Angeles mentioned in issue #8's letters page that he was using an online checklist to build his collection, and I have a feeling he's talking about my chronology project. I hope you don't mind if I plug my Marvel Universe 616 & Prime Earth Moon Knight Comic Book Chronology Project, in which I've collected (almost) every appearance of Moon Knight in the mainstream Marvel continuity? It's a Google Sheet with a downloadable Microsoft Excel format for fans to track their Moon Knight collection from single issues to trade collections. It even includes a checklist of books that can be found on the Marvel Unlimited app and comiXology for digital collectors. Give it a Google or a Bing, if you're interested!

Sincerely,
Orion Petitclerc

Orion, thanks for writing in! And AWESOME name! Thanks for putting together your awesome checklist! I haven't checked it out yet, it sounds like quite the endeavor! It's cool to hear that you found Moon Knight through the video games; lots of big* Marvel Ultimate Alliance *fans up here at the Marvel Offices. No plans for those wild runs of MOON KNIGHT to get collected that I know of, but you never know what those crazy collections cats will put out next!

Dear Jeff and Greg,

I just finished reading issue #5 and it was mind-blowingly awesome. I mean, if you were to look up "mind-blowing" in the dictionary, you would find the cover of issue #5 on it. One of the things I love best about this current series is how you have no idea what's gonna happen next, and the fact that I have absolutely no idea if whatever Marc is going through is real or all in his head. It's so frustrating, but in the best way possible! I hope this current creative team stays on for a long run and I can't wait to see what happens next.

Make Mine Marvel (I've always wanted to say that!),

Christian L.
Miami, FL

Glad you're digging the book, Christian! That cover to #5 is pretty rad, right? When Greg turned in the sketch for that one I nearly fell out of my chair! Man, I wish there was a dictionary that had illustrative Marvel images next to words. Someone get that Webster guy to give Marvel a call, let's make something happen!

Dear MOON KNIGHT creators,

I love MOON KNIGHT so much. MOON KNIGHT helped me through a hard two years in high school and through advancing from a first grade reading level to a high school reading level. I loved the first issue and the art that is in it. I love the artist's drawing style, and I hope that one day I'll meet the team that made the comic.

I'm so happy to hear one of our books got you through a tough time! I know there have been comics that got me through some pretty rough patches. And I hope you can meet Jeff and Greg one day as well. They're a couple of sweethearts, and share our love for all our Moonies!

Moon Knighters,

This book is awesome. Most of the time I have no idea what the heck is going on, but I love it. The only solid ground that I have to stand on is that Marc is confused. We are experiencing the confusion with him and have no more information than he does. Sometimes I really just start to feel lost when I flip the page and there's a whole new artist and a whole new planet, but that's the beauty of it. And I have to say, the letters page is really contributing to the story. I get to see that I'm not the only who's confused and that some people go through this every day. It's truly eye opening. Thanks for writing something so powerful. Keep it up!

Luke V.
Saint Louis, MO

Hey Luke, I just want to take a moment to thank you and all the other fans out there who have stuck with us through the wild ride this book is taking you all on. I know it's an investment to stick with a comic book like this one, and all of us here at MOON KNIGHT HQ take your investment very seriously. Jeff's got an incredible plan to bring this all together. He was so dedicated to making this big story work that he turned in scripts months in advance so we could all see exactly what he's planning, and it's spectacular. I sincerely believe that if you're on board with what we're doing, you're going to love where this is all headed. It's one of the coolest stories I've ever been a part of here at Marvel.

Only recently getting into comics seriously--I went with the heavy hitters--Spidey, Cap, X-Men, etc. But on one fateful visit, I asked the guy at my local shop for a good recommendation. This new run of MOON KNIGHT was the only one that moderately interested me. Went back a couple weeks later and grabbed #1-3, and I am absolutely hooked. The story, as well as the unique aspects of Mr. Knight's character, have made for a refreshing change of pace and put me in a truly different world with every issue I pick up. Keep up the amazing work, and MOON KNIGHT is officially in my subscription box.

Bryan Burke
Bradley, IL

Bryan, thanks so much for subscribing! That's a HUGE help for any book you believe in, that means a lot to us! I also love hearing that you talk to your LCS dude, that's awesome! When I was a burgeoning comics fan, the guys at my local shop, Forbidden Planet in NYC, were a huge help in guiding me towards comics I loved. Give him a high-five from us Moonies!

Dear Loonies of the Moonie Band,

I've just finished reading all of the earlier MK adventures. Figured I had to fill the gap while waiting between issues #6 and #7 with something. Only now I begin to get more of the references like Lupinar, the werewolves on the moon, and Steven being a movie producer. It feels like a whole other layer, an encrypted message to all Moonies, that lifts this incredible story to a higher level.

Back to issue #8. Oh my god, did Mr. Lemire score high with that twist at the end where the alter egos go back to New York buried under the sands and find Marc alive. Was it Marc? Then who was in space with Frenchie? Or is this the Mr. Knight persona? Guess issue #9 will tell. I'm so excited. If they had this arc on Netflix in the possible future, it would be a megahit. I'd agree to play anyone on such a show.

Thank you for the great work,

Seva

Seva, I hope you weren't planning on playing Lupinar, I've already called dibs. I'm growing out the facial hair and everything! And I agree, that final page of issue #8 is absolutely killer. I get goosebumps every time I see it. I hope you enjoyed #9! I loved all the work our guest artists did, but as fun as it was to see their awesome action sequences and wild landscapes, I thought the emotional work they all did in #9 was truly exceptional. The beats with each of the personalities facing Marc, and that final splash…it's probably my favorite issue of the run so far.

But just you all wait, I know what's coming next, and…well, I don't want to ruin all the fun, but it's gonna be a wild ride! We know you wouldn't have it any other way…

Stay Weird!
-Jake T.

ZONE